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Memorandum of Conversation

DATE:

February 28, 1951

SUBJECT:

Chiang Wei-kuo

PARTICIPANTS:

Mr. Cates, Commerce International (China)
CA - Mr. R. C. Strong
CA - Mr. R. E. Johnson

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—61120-1

"Tex" Cates today stated that he had received recently a letter from Chiang Wei-kuo. The most interesting feature of the letter was that Chiang informed Cates that he had almost completed preparation looking to inauguration of commando raids against the China mainland. These raids will be mounted in three LST's bearing a brigade of troops including light tanks, armored cars, and artillery. The objective would be to spend from three to seven days in the selected area for the purpose of destroying Communist lines of communication, supplies, and equipment, but even more important would be the purpose of boosting morale on the mainland and demonstrating that the Nationalists had a new, modern army. Chiang also expressed the hope that the United States would be impressed by these activities and would provide additional needed equipment and logistic support.

Each operation would be supported from Chinmen island. A new beach area is said to have been developed on the southern coast of Chinmen at a point at which the Chinese Communists are unable to interdict with artillery fire unless they capture Hsiao (small) Chinmen.

Cates declared that Chiang Wei-kuo's primary concern was the attitude the United States Government would take toward such

operations

operations in view of the Nationalist commitment not to attack the mainland.

Cates added the following, but I am not certain whether it comes from his own information or was included in the letter from Chiang:

Chiang now has a well integrated armored infantry force which has reached a high state of training for carrying out such commando raids. His command is entirely separated from the ground forces. Chiang Wei-kuo is said to have become the favorite of the Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-shek in very recent months and every effort is being made to increase his importance; conversely, Madame Chiang Kai-shek is said to be not even on speaking terms with Chiang Ching-kuo and it is Cates' belief that the Generalissimo regards the elder Chiang's brother with less favor now.

Cates promised that he would let CA see any further such communications and in turn he was promised that his information would be held in utmost confidence.

FE:CA:RCStrong:cg